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Welcome to the USGS Cooperative Water Program Quarterly Highlights, October 2011

Highlights are from the USGS Cooperative Water Program (CWP), which monitors and assesses water in every State, protectorate, and territory of the U.S. in partnership with nearly 1,600 local, State, and Tribal agencies.

The CWP provides the foundation for USGS robust water monitoring networks (quantity and quality)—including, for example collection of data at more than 75 percent of the Nation's 7,700 streamgages, as well as supports interpretative studies—about 700 annually—that cover a wide range of issues that are important to the USGS water mission and that inform local, State, and Tribal water decisions.

New this quarter is a [revised web page](http://water.usgs.gov/coop) for the Cooperative Water Program (<http://water.usgs.gov/coop>).

Learn about, and directly access, water data on streams, groundwater and water quality, as well as selected products released in 2011 on water availability, ecosystem health, water quality and drinking water, water hazards, energy, and climate.

Featured, for example:

- A comprehensive groundwater flow model, developed in cooperation with the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#), the [Yakama Nation](#), and the [Bureau of Reclamation](#), for the entire Yakima River Basin in the State of Washington that simulates the groundwater system, its interaction with rivers and streams, and conjunctive management of groundwater and surface-water resources. ([Full report](#); [Press release](#), September 2011)
- USGS report, done in cooperation with the [City of Austin](#), the [City of Dripping Springs](#), the [Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District](#), the [Lower Colorado River Authority](#), [Hays County](#), and [Travis County](#), that characterizes concentrations and isotopic compositions of nitrate and concentrations of wastewater compounds in the Barton Springs Zone, South-Central, Texas, and their potential relation to urban development. ([Fact sheet](#), [Full report](#))
- Article in the journal *Science of the Total Environment* on pharmaceuticals in selected aquifers in California, done in cooperation with the [California State Water Resources Control Board \(SWRCB\) Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment](#) Program's Priority Basin Project. ([Journal article](#); [Press release](#))
- A [study](#) and model, developed in cooperation with the [City of Newport News Waterworks](#), on effects of possible future sea-level rise on increasing salinity in southeastern Virginia tributaries to Chesapeake Bay.

We are hopeful that the data and science inform water issues you face each day and inspire new ways of thinking and water solutions.

For questions on specific studies or USGS programs in individual States, please contact the USGS Water Science Director in the respective State by clicking on the "map" in the right hand corner or toggle box in the left sidebar.

Comments and feedback on the Cooperative Water Program and/or on the new web page are welcome (email: pahamilt@usgs.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.

In appreciation for your support of USGS,

Sincerely,
Pixie Hamilton
National Coordinator, USGS Cooperative Water Program

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